

AGENDA ITEM VI A

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE/CURRICULAR REVISION

SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY

REQUEST TO APPROVE A NON-THESIS OPTION FOR THE M.S. IN BIOLOGY PROGRAM

STAFF ANALYSIS

Southeastern Louisiana University requests permission to offer a non-thesis option in its M.S. program in Biology.

Currently, SLU offers only a thesis option within the M.S. in Biology program. All M.S. students must successfully complete twenty-four credit hours of graduate-level Biological Science coursework, plus six hours of thesis preparation, for a total of thirty. This is the typical program design utilized at universities nationwide to prepare students for eventual doctoral study. The University contends however that there is a need for a more flexible graduate Biology program to serve students who have other, equally valid professional goals other than pursuit of a Ph.D. Accordingly, SLU proposes a new M.S. in Biology non-thesis option. Students who enroll in the non-thesis option will be required to successfully complete a total of thirty-six hours of graduate-level coursework, including a minimum of twenty-eight hours of Biological Sciences and up to eight hours in a related scientific field or education.

The proposed Non-Thesis option is designed to serve the needs of three primary target groups: baccalaureate-prepared high school science teachers seeking greater discipline area expertise; prospective professional school students (medicine or dentistry) needing additional discipline area study to become eligible for admission; and non-research biologists seeking advanced training to increase chances for promotion or advancement. The University provides convincing rationale of need supporting their claim of significant student interest in each target group.

Resources concerns have been appropriately addressed by the University in its proposal. It appears that existing coursework, faculty, library/informational resources, and facilities/equipment are more than adequate to offer the new option; hence, no additional state support would be needed. Desegregation Settlement Agreement and program duplication issues do not appear to apply in this case.

STAFF SUMMARY

The proposed new option is academically sound and cost-effective. The staff is particularly encouraged by the University's focus on serving the needs of baccalaureate-trained science teacher seeking additional subject area expertise.

The staff recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval to the request from Southeastern Louisiana State University to establish a M.S. in Biology - Non-Thesis Option program (CIP Code 26.0101), effective immediately.

AGENDA ITEM VI B

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE/CURRICULAR REVISION

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

REQUEST TO CONSOLIDATE DEPARTMENTS WITHIN THE COLLEGE OF EDUCATION AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

STAFF ANALYSIS

The University of Louisiana at Monroe requests permission to consolidate two departments within the College of Education and Human Development into one: the existing Department of Curriculum/Instruction (13 faculty) and the Department of Educational Leadership/Counseling (16 faculty) into a new Department of Instructional Leadership and Counseling (29 faculty).

The proposed consolidation will result in most teacher education programs and coursework being offered by a single department. Cost-savings of approximately \$102,000/year are expected due to the loss of one departmental head and one secretary position.

STAFF SUMMARY

The staff expects that there will be significant efficiencies resulting from the proposed consolidation. It will be incumbent upon the University to maintain the unique academic integrity of the varied education programs to be housed in the new, single department.

The staff recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval to the request from the University of Louisiana at Monroe to combine the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling within the College of Education and Human Development into a single new Department of Instructional Leadership and Counseling. This change shall become effective immediately.

AGENDA ITEM VI C

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE/CURRICULAR REVISION

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

REQUEST TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE SCHOOL OF VOCATIONAL EDUCATION TO THE SCHOOL OF HUMAN RESOURCE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

STAFF ANALYSIS

Louisiana State University proposes changing the name of the School of Vocational Education to the School of Human Resource Education and Workforce Development.

The University believes the proposed new name would more accurately reflect the range of academic/service programs and other activities offered by the School. The new name is consistent with trends for the designation of similar units at other Research I universities nationwide. In addition, the new name would mirror the title for the associated national professional organization—the University Council for Workforce and Human Resource Education. The University later plans to request changes in degree titles utilized by the School.

STAFF SUMMARY

The requested name change is academically appropriate and appears to have no substantive financial impact upon existing state allocations to the University.

The staff recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval to the request from Louisiana State University and A&M College to change the name of the School of Vocational Education to the School of Human Resource Education and Workforce Development. This change shall become effective immediately.

AGENDA ITEM VI D

PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE/CURRICULAR REVISION

DELGADO COMMUNITY COLLEGE

REQUEST TO CHANGE THE DESIGNATION OF THE A.S. IN COMPUTER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TO A.A.S.

STAFF ANALYSIS

Delgado Community College requests permission to change the degree designation of the A.S. (Associate of Science) in Computer Information Technology to A.A.S. (Associate of Applied Science).

Delgado notes that the program is terminal in nature; the curriculum is designed for immediate entry-level technician employment. Student who graduate from the program rarely transfer to four-year institutions for further baccalaureate study. By clarifying the degree designation, students would have a clear indication of the program's curricular intent. The College also notes that faculty needs for an A.A.S. program are distinctly different from those of an A.S. program and it has been difficult to attract individuals who possess both sets of needed academic and experiential skills.

STAFF COMMENT

The staff notes that the proposed degree designation change is consistent with ongoing efforts of the staff and the Council of Chief Academic Officers to establish a statewide policy for the uniform use of undergraduate degree terminology to describe like programs. There appear to be no financial impact associated with this request and there is no issue with regard to program accreditation.

The staff recommends approval.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends approval for the request from Delgado Community College to change the degree designation for the A.S. program in Computer Information technology to the A.A.S. in Computer Information Technology. This change shall become effective immediately.